GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1511
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2017
Delay/Cancellation of Flights
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether every year, flights get delayed or cancelled due to foggy conditions, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the airlines or airports are not prepared to handle flights during fog, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it has been found that almost all delays and cancellations have happened either due to the aircraft being non-CAT III compliant or pilots not being trained to handle compliant aircraft, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether subsequent flight diversions even when visibility was way above the instrument landing system or CAT III minimum range showed the warning was not heeded, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a) As per the prevailing regulations, airlines are not required to submit details of cancellations/ delays specific to fog.;

(b) Non CAT - III compliant aircraft are rescheduled between 1000 hours to 2000 hours by airlines during low visibility period. However, the encounter with fog prior to estimated time of its arrival may cause flight delay/ diversion while operating with such aircraft.;

(c) At times, flight are delayed due to technical, operational, weather, commercial and other reasons which are beyond the control of the airlines. Delays and cancellations of flights specific to non CAT III compliant or pilots not being trained to handle compliant aircraft reasons are not maintained.;

(d) Such information is not maintained by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation(DGCA).;

(e) With a view to minimize the inconvenience to travelling passengers and to ensure safety of operation during low visibility period, all scheduled airlines were directed by DGCA to follow the following instructions:;

(i) Close monitoring and planning of flights as per weather forecast with proper co - ordination with dedicated teams of IMD/DGCA/AAI/DIAL.;

(ii) In case of low visibility/ fog forecast exists, flights not to be planned for Delhi during Zero visibility condition and flight may be rescheduled from the point of origin.;

(iii) Only CAT III aircraft to be scheduled during fog hours along with CAT III trained flight crew i.e P1 & P2 as per visibility condition.;

(iv) Non - CAT III compliant aircraft will have to be rescheduled between 1000 hours to 2000 hours.;

(v) Prior information to be given to passengers regarding change of flights/ schedule, if any.;

(vi) In case of flight delays, the passengers to be taken care as per the provisions of the Civil Aviation Requirements.;

(vii) All other conditions contained in AIC 11 of 2009 should be strictly adhered to.